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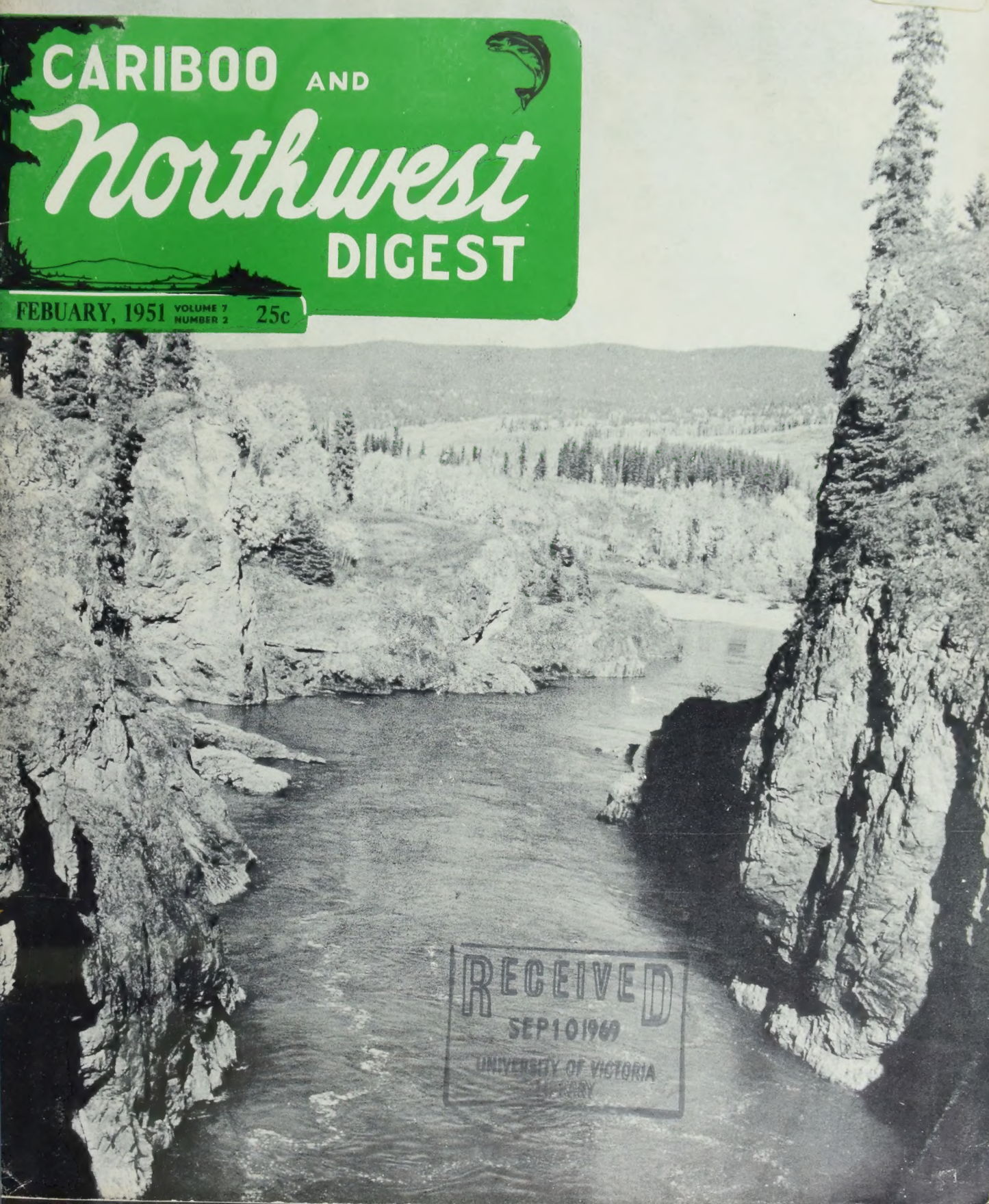
CARIBOO AND Northwest DIGEST

FEBUARY, 1951 VOLUME 7 NUMBER 2 25c



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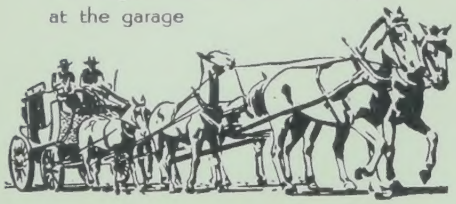

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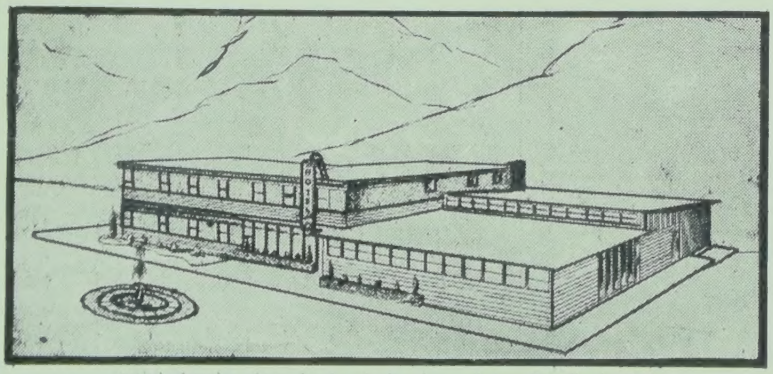

Artist's drawing of new hotel replacing the one destroyed by fire in 1949

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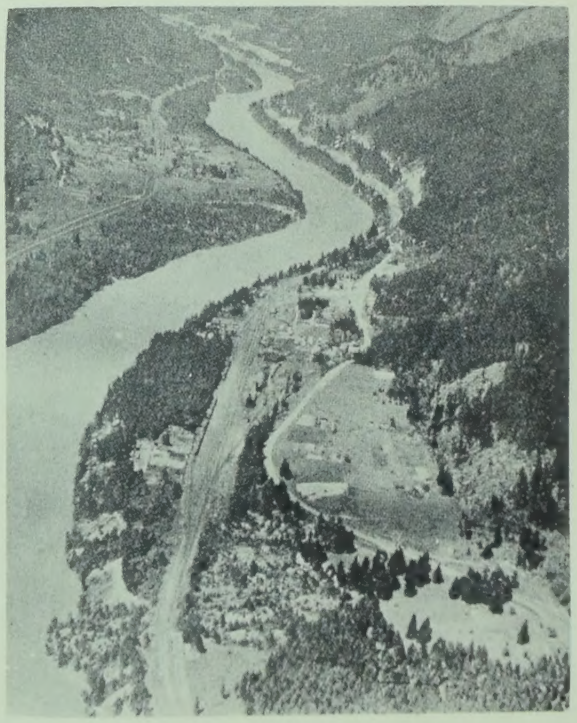

BOSTON BAR,B.C. - Aero Surveys Photo

In The Heart of The Fraser Canyon on The Original Route To The Cariboo Gold Fields

Cariboo and Northwest Digest

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITORS

SUCCESS.

Herwith some pictures proving the success of our September trip to your Province. We fished the Stellako, Fulton, Babine and Bulkley Rivers. The Bulkley was not very productive at the time we were there but the others provided excellent fishing. ALL fish shown here were taken on flies.

Louis Roux, Bakersfield, and C.P. Bussinger, Telkwa, with steelhead taken from Bulkley River just east of the Telkwa Bridge.(9lbs. 6oz.)

We want to thank the Plowmans at Endako, the McCreas at Topley Landing and Mr. Bussinger at Telkwa for taking excellent care of us and helping us to have a grand trip. We also wish to thank your magazine for all the helpful letters we received in response to the letter you published last Spring.

Carl Anheier with Dolly Varden, 8lbs caught in the Babine River just below the salmon barrier.

Frank Black of San Francisco, Herb Vaughn, Louis Roux and Carl Anheier, all of Bakersfield, with rainbows taken from the Stellako River.

Conditions permitting I hope to see you again next Fall.

Lloyd Hamilton Fox, M.D.
Bakersfield, Calif., U.S.A.

continued on page 3

The Cover

This month's cover is an exceptionally good(B.C.Gov't Travel Bureau) shot of the Bulkley Canyon at Moricetown, B.C. At the Canyon and Falls are to be had some of the best salmon fishing in the interior - witness photo to the left showing E. Butchart of the Bulkley Hotel, Smithers, with his 35 1/2 pounder caught there.

EDITORIALS

British Columbians All

By L.F. CASHMAN

In the excerpt from Howay and Scholefield's History of British Columbia, page 10 of this issue, the effect of the discovery of gold in the Cariboo on the colony of Victoria is recounted. It is noted that this discovery had tremendous effect on that colony. Later when the Fraser River did not produce as expected a decline set in, followed by another upsurge in 1860 and 1861 with the discovery of Keithly and Antler Creeks. Thereafter it appeared that each find in the Cariboo had its reflex action in Victoria.

Perhaps this is the most outstanding example in the history of the province on the effect of development in a hinterland on an urban centre. It is possible that statistics could be compiled which would illustrate that there are other such examples but this might well be difficult to assess today.

It may be that we are yet to witness another example upon completion of the P.G.E. Railway. Readers are no doubt aware that there is some difference of opinion as to the completion of this project and a great deal has been written concerning it. One community became aroused when it appeared that this railroad would go through it. It was said that this property value would fall along the right-of-way and pressure was exerted to prevent the railroad from following this route. Instantly opposition developed to the stand taken by this community's objections. The matter has yet to be settled and there can be no doubt that the decision will affect all British Columbia.

Nevertheless, there has been an increased activity in Northern British Columbia in the past few years and people in other parts of the Province are beginning to notice. This is what we want.

However there are a great many who have not noticed and, sadly enough there are some who are not aware of our existence, and, in fact there are some who do not care.

Perhaps some of you who served during the last war have listened of an evening to arguments between men from Vancouver and men from Victoria, to take an example, on the relative merits and superiority of their city. Some of these arguments run hot and heavy, but then there was little else to do and we did enjoy them. In fact I have heard such discussions since the war. No doubt a certain friendly rivalry is good. Unfortunately however there are those who think the British Columbia border ends at the boundary of their respective city. We We already have seen that the colony of Victoria was greatly affected by events in the Cariboo.

Just as no modern country today can be completely independent and ignorant of her neighbour countries, British Columbians in Vancouver cannot ignore British Columbians in Williams Lake and Quesnel and British Columbians in Victoria cannot ignore British Columbians in Fort St. John.

There may not be startling examples today similar to the one cited above but we are dependent upon each other. The good of British Columbia as a whole must of necessity be considered before the good of our particular community for the basic economic reason that no community can develop its greatest potential on its own hook.

A few property owners may suffer because a railroad follows a certain route but a great many British Columbians may benefit through the opening up of untouched timber reserves. Such decisions must therefore be considered in the light of the province as an entirety and not in the interest of a few individuals for we are British Columbians all.

Can We Learn From History?

By A.M. BEZANSCN

A NOTED historian, after spending a lifetime studying man's performance, said "The only thing we learn from history is that we do not learn from history."

That thought has been hammering at my conscience ever since the sides were drawn and the tug of war between Russia and the United States began. It seems that nations established through revolution, like the United States, cannot abide even the thought of revolution in another nation. Britian, having survived many purges and tame revolutions in her long history is much more mature politically. She knows that fads in government, even as in religion, come and go. Perhaps she has learned from history.

I have no faith in Communism, as a religion or a form of government, than the most 100% American. But I have learned in my studies that China has tried four great experiments in totalitarionism, and got rid of them when she found them wanting. Shentsung, the socially-minded Emporer established state capitalism, very similar to what Russia now has, in the year 1069. After seven years of sincere effort to make it work to the benefit of the mass of the people, it was scrapped after it had involved both people and government heavily in debt, and resulted in the development of rigid police controls - even attempted control over thinking.

There must be many scholars in China who are aware of her many experiments in government during her long history. And despite the legend-

continued on page 33

WITH THE AUTHORS

A GREAT SPIRIT

Since contributing her article on Skeena River boats, which appears in this issue of the Digest - Mrs. Boss has written us that she is "in hospital getting the Cortisone treatment and jerks, this past ten days," for that mean disease arthritis. The editors feel very humble, for upon us "Crabbing" that we were so busy that we hadn't had time to answer her letter she closed her reply with an underlined "Glad you are so busy - nice to be so."

A MYSTERY.

Ernest Messmer, after wishing the Digest "all the luck and prosperity in the publishing of your splendid and most interesting magazine" enclosed the poem "The Monument" with the following explanation as to its origin- "I am sending you a poem, that strange as it may seem, I found in an old prospector's cabin on Weaver Creek not very far from the grave of George Weaver of old mining day fame. Who the author of this poem is I do not know. It had been written on a piece of old writing paper, very yellow and creased with age and hardly decipherable. I copied it as best as I could as it is of such human or may I say animal interest."

ONLY PROVINCIAL CONSTABLE PRESENT....

"Stewart, B. C." is the first of a series of articles Guy Lawrence is writing for this magazine and covering the early day history of some of the towns of Central and Northern B.C.

Mr. Lawrence admits that he is a sourdough of Northern B. C., since he left England on a short three days notice to participate in the '98 Gold Rush just over fifty-two years ago.

Travelling with his father, when he was only seventeen, it was their intention like thousands of others to head for Dawson Y. T., but owing to the fact that the rich placer fields of Atlin were discovered whilst they were still negotiating the Teslin Trail, father and son turned off for Atlin instead. Guy thinks today, that this was just as well, because the fourteen Months they spent going up the Stikine River and over the Teslin Trail and thence overland from the head of Teslin Lake to Atlin provided quite enough thrills to last an average man's lifetime.

He and his father were not successful in their mining ventures, although they did find two nuggets on one of the bench claims they bought. Later they found out that the claim had been salted to provide even this small amount of wealth.

Lawrence Sr. returned to England after two years and on his arrival home sent out funds for his son to return too, but young Lawrence saw the possibilities of the Northern life.

Incidently these possibilities involved various occupations, and one of them was being the only Provincial Constable present when the Riot Act was read during the Oriental labor at Atlin. Young Lawrence quite enjoyed this unusual episode at the time but rather felt that the odds were against him should the three hundred white miners participating turn aggressive towards him.

A few years later he joined the staff of the Yukon Telegraph Service which occupation he followed until his retirement in 1946 with two short intervals. The first was when he left Y. T. S. to open the first telegraph office at Fort George for a smaller company, and the second when he shortly did his stint in World War 1. going over as Signaller in the famous Western Scots.

Today he says he is busy sawing wood to keep the home furnace burning, and writing short articles for various magazines in between times when he has got the furnace sufficiently stoked.

LETTERS,

(continued from page 1)

TURNED BACK.

Please accept my appreciation for the illustrated reading matter with reference to your wonderland of the North Country and will look forward to receiving your new road map when ready. I believe you could render a good service to us people down here if you would print instructions on requirements when crossing the border to satisfy the Customs Inspectors. I was turned back at the Border near Blain Wash. because I had guns and my camp dog. I had gone all the way from my ranch in central Ore. The round trip was 1100 miles. We had our bed rolls and camping equipment and had planned to spend a month in and around Prince George. We cannot always get away to make this trip and only trust we can make it next year - if the Custom Inspector will let me through. Before starting I will send them a list of what I will have and if they don't make it too tough I will come up and see your country, I have been through Alberta and found the people to my liking.

Gilbert W. Harris.
Portland, Ore. U. S. A.

STEELHEAD IN THE THOMPSON.

I read your magazine regularly and enjoy it very much. However I see little mention of fishing in the Thompson River, which at times is excellent. I am enclosing a couple of snaps which might be of interest to your readers. Incidently, the steelhead fishing is usually pretty good right into February.

Wm. (Bill) Shandley.
Spences Bridge, B. C.

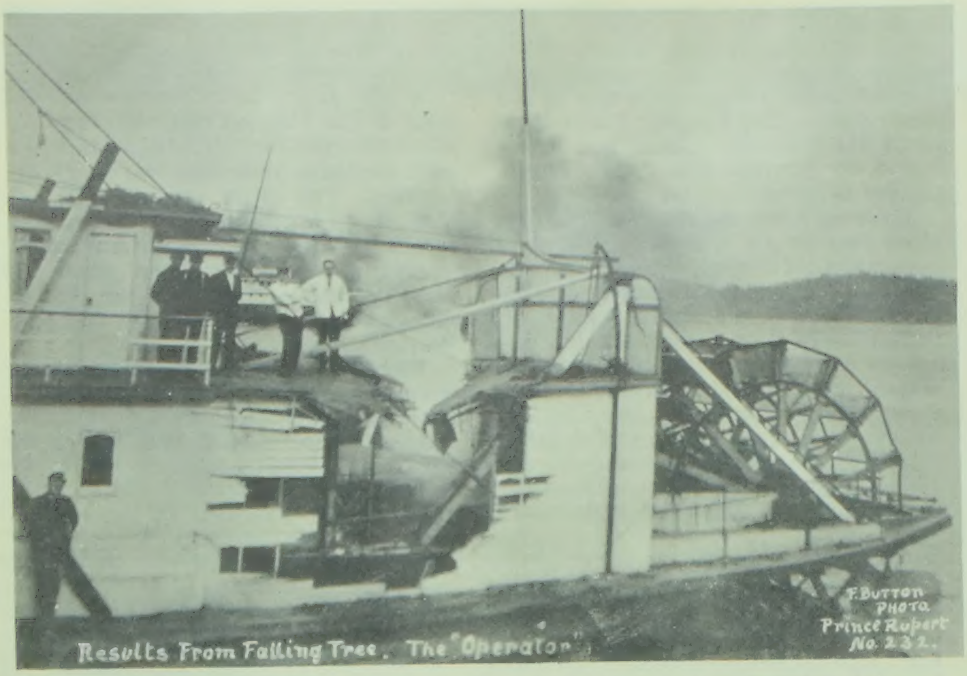
Trig Ellingsen with 21lb. steelhead taken in the Thompson River near Spences Bridge.

Gerry Ellingsen with three trout taken taken at the mouth of the Nicola River just east of Spences Bridge.

SON.

Recently my son who is working at Lac La Hache sent me a copy of the Cariboo & Northwest Digest, Dec. 1950 volume 6-No12-. On Page 4 was an interesting article of "Trumpeter

continued on page 35



In navigating the rivers not all the danger was from hidden rocks and foaming white water - pilots also had to watch the shoreline - witness the severe damage to the "Operator" from a falling tree, shown above.

Pioneer Pilots of the Skeena

By Mrs. M.W. BOSS

SIR:

I enjoyed your recent article re the sternwheelers of the Skeena River so much that I decided through your fine magazine to pay tribute to those early and gallant navigators who manned those boats and figure among our list of "Empire Builders."

Mrs. M.W. Boss

THE SKEENA RIVER, a veritable mountain torrent, with a drop of five feet to the mile and a run of 180 miles, afforded no easy problems to those skilful skippers. They had to contend with rapids, sandbars, (ever shifting) whirlpools, driftwood, unchartered channels, canyons, high water and low water, and, at times, strong head winds. Consequently it was necessary to "line" over the difficult places.

For many years Fort Simpson was the distributing point for the Hudson's Bay Company's steamers - a run of fifty miles by sea to Port Essington (Spoke-shoot) and from there it took an average trip of three days to Hazelton depending on the stage of the water. There was no night travelling and the ship tied up each evening at a cordwood pile and "wooded up" for an early start next morning. In the early days some of the first boats were obliged to wait a week or so for the river to rise, and then while waiting the passengers went fishing and enjoyed an outing ashore. During these delays the usual betting as to when the ship's whistle would give the "all clear," on the other hand the down trip was done in less than a day, considering "skook-um-chuck" (tide).

Sixty years ago I had my first introduction to the then "Old Caledonia" at Fort Simpson. The Captain, J. H. Bonser and family of Portland, Ore. were aboard and had just completed a successful run on both Skeena and Stikine Rivers.

That Fall of 1890 my step-father the late Mr. J. M. L. Alexander, who had been cattle ranching on Queen Charlotte Island for two years, had chartered the Georgetown Sawmill steamer "Nell," Captain Madden - to transfere his family and a herd of 19 fine steer to the mainland. The cattle were dumped off at Elizabeth Island and we proceeded to Fort Simpson and there lying at the wharf was the little "Caledonis" all gleaming in a coat of fresh white paint and bright red paddle-wheel. A pleasing sight to us children after the dark and heavy looking sea craft of the coast. Perhaps many old timers will remember Mr. Pat Hickey who was a veteran engineer of the Kootenys and then chief of the "Caledonia." in fact he spent many years on the H. B. Co. boats. The purser, Anthony C. Mouat of Victoria was aboard and his brother Wm. Mouat, 2nd. Engineer, otherwise the crew included a Mate, Steward, Watchman, cabin boys, Indian Pilot, deckhands and woodpassers. In a few days the "Caledonia" would be hauled out on the ways for the winter months.

There was much talk then of a trans-Canada Railway coming into either Fort Simpson or Kitamaat. Hence there was a regular land boom. My step-father; Messers. Charlie Clifford; R. H. Hall and other H. B. factors, staked townsites at both sites, but were doomed to disappointment and our cattle went wild. As we all know 17 years later the Grand Trunk Pacific chose Kaien Island for its terminal.

During the intervening years be-

G.T.P. bridge over the Skeena River at Skeena Croosing, with one of the Foley Welch and Stewart fleet passing underneath. River traffic ended upon completion of the railway to Prince Rupert.

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SIDNEY, VANCOUVER ISLAND, B.C.

The Foley, Welch & Stewart fleet at Prince Rupert, B.C.

Port Essington in 1908

tween railroad booms the old "Caledonia" was replaced by the new "Caledonia" and sister ship "Strathcona." But after a few seasons the Hudson's Bay Company discarded these boats and substituted lighter draft craft, namely the "Port Simpson," the "Hazelton" and the "Mount Royal." No doubt early travellers will remember those famous skippers. . S. B. Johnson, J. C. Bucey, Jackman, Gardner, Magar, Watson and of course Bonser. It was amazing how few accidents and loss of life was recorded during all those years.

One summer day in 1908 I was sitting at the telegraph instrument in my office at Fort Simpson when I listened to the operator at Kitselas reporting the "Mount Royal" drifting through the Canyon in pieces. The whole country was shocked over the disaster and loss of five of the crew and deep sympathy went out to Captain Johnson, skipper of the doomed steamboat. Although he had eight years of successful steam-boating on the Skeena he was so cut up over the whole thing that he left never to return. I met him 20 years later enroute for Peru on some inland transportation mission and he added, "I'd rather go back to the Skeena."

At this time my brother, W. J. O' Neill, was operating on the lower Skeena with our launch "Strongheart" running passengers and supplies to the hydro-electric plant at Mile 44.

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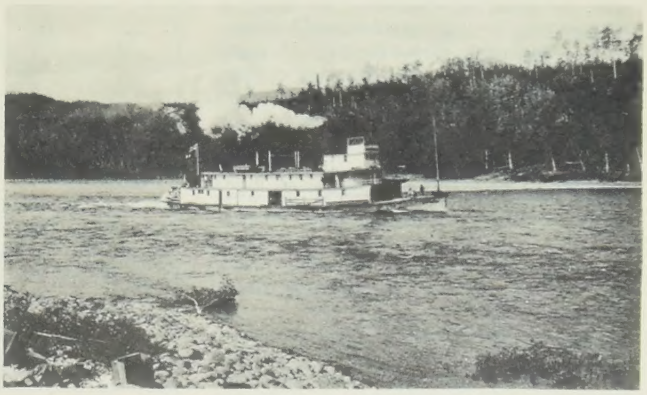
S.S. Inlander steaming through Kitselas Canyon in 1911 - J.H. Bonser. Purser "Wiggs" O'Neill, now of Smithers, B.C., is young man with camera.



Steamer "Hazelton", sister ship of the "Caledonia" in a stretch of comparatively quiet water.

-photos by The Author

Are We Slaves To Our Clocks?

By F.M. COWLIN

DO YOU ever feel that clocks have you in their power and seek to govern your days so that in time they will enslave you? I know a man who feels this way and harbors such an intense dislike for his bustling, clickety-clack alarum clock that he regards himself as its victim, and makes a practice of nightly kicking it down a long passage that it may not triumph over him too aggressively!

Man has long been in the habit of "clocking" his days, and modern invention has so speeded up activity, that every hour, even every moment, must pull its weight and be placed under the tyranny of the clock, so that it is difficult to realize that clocks do not dispose of time, and that time as a commodity does not exist.

However that may be, we are convinced that time passes and have measured it with various devices through the centuries, clocks being unknown until the tenth century. Before that time the sun and the stars, sundials, water clocks, sandglasses and bells were used to mark the hours.

When bells were rung to announce the time of day, "bellclocking" was done by sextons who climbed the stairs of the belfry to ring the hour. Sturdy stone steps in the towers of 11th and 12th century churches are worn thin by the feet of these men. In the 14th century this practice was superceded by weight-driven clocks and mechanical chimes. At first a single stroke was used to call attention to the hour, then came short melodies, and later the quarter-hours were chimed as we have them today.

As clocks became general they were used in many fanciful ways. A church tower in a picture would sometimes have a real clock in it, so arranged that it was subordinated to the picture. Watch clocks of the 16th century were highly ornamented and were often encrusted with precious stones.

One hundred years later grandfather clocks became very popular and have held their places as general favorites until the present day. Some people like to listen to the rhythmical tick of such a clock in the silence of the night, even holding that it assumes a dignity of tone after midnight, though the real reason may be that during the daytime the quiet soothing tick-tock is drowned by the bustling noise of the city.

Among famous clocks is that given by Henry V111 to Anne Boleyn on her wedding morning. About ten inches high, it is made of copper gilt chased with fleur-de-lys, scrolls and cherubs, surmounted by a lion holding the Arms of England. The gilded copper weights are engraved with the initials "H. A." intertwined. Below the royal motto "Dieu et mon Droit" are the words "The Most Happye." Queen Victoria bought this clock from the collector, Horace Walpole, and it is now at Windsor Castle.

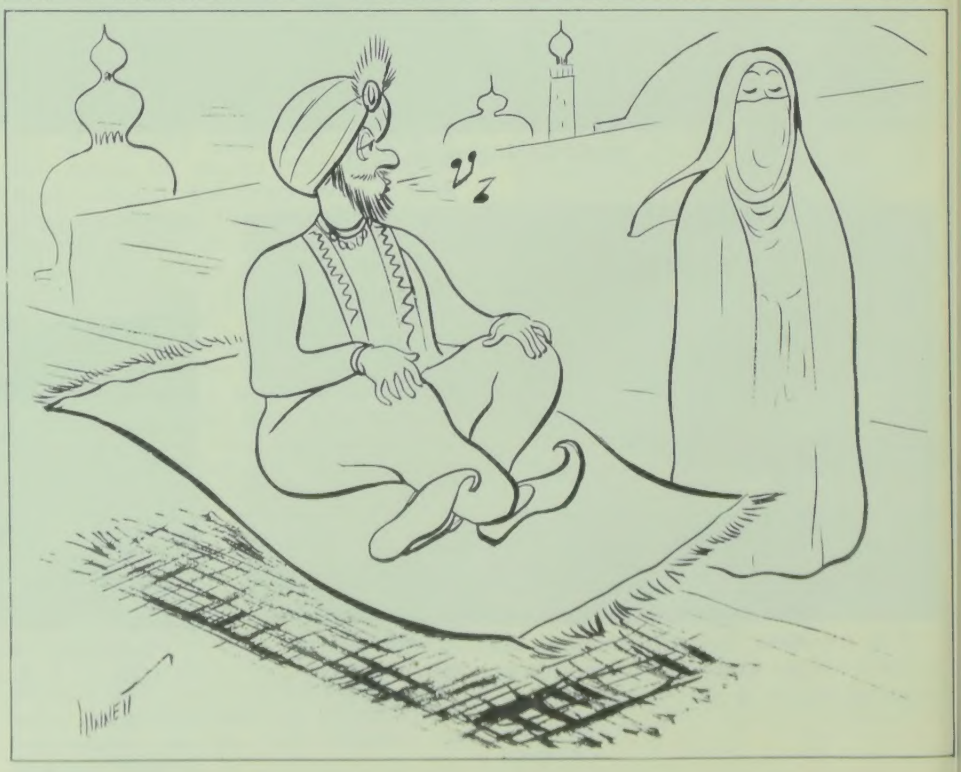
From old records it is evident that every burgh in Scotland had to maintain a public clock, and as early as the 14th century, these clocks not only struck the hours but the time of the church services, so that ignorance of the hour of kirk was no excuse for absence.

These clocks came from Flanders, and as each needed "Rowlling and gyding" it was often difficult to find a man willing to undertake the task. We read of one man secured for such duty being supplied with "bedclaes" that he might sleep in the tolbooth while caring for his charge. Before the time of such dignified clocks, timepieces had been hung on the wall, and were of the variety with pendulum visible. They were known by the name of "wag-at-the-wa."

Many beautiful clocks were made by Scottish clockmakers of the 17th century, the leading manufacturer being Humphrey Mills, a burgess of Edinburgh.

By the 18th century clockmakers vied with each other in producing astronomical and musical clocks. Their masterpieces showed phases of the sun and moon and played tunes, yet unfailingly told the correct time from year to year.

A notable clockmaker of this time was James Smith of Pittenween. One of his masterpieces (for which he asked the modest sum of $900.) had three dials and a chime of sixteen bells. At the quarter hours a chime was rung, at the hour the clock broke into a familiar air such as "Highland Laddie," and "The Flowers of the Forest." James Smith was a good Presbyterian, however, so the clock omitted the song at midnight on Saturday, and instead there appeared on the dial plate the solemn words, "Remember the Sabbath." When the dread hours had been duly ticked off and Monday morning dawned, the clock again marked the hours with merry song.



210 Miles on Horseback

IN 55° BELOW - TO ATTEND A FUNERAL

By LYDIA CUNNINGHAM

Arriving outside the Roman Catholic Church at Little Fort during a snow storm. It had been over 50 below.

ON CHRISTMAS EVE, Charlie Fortier, chief of the Chu Chua Indians followed the Shadow Trail to the Happy Hunting Grounds. He had died when the car in which he was riding left the road and overturned, pinning him underneath. Chief Charlie, only thirty-nine years old, left a wife and nine children to mourn his death.

A week later the Chief was buried and the funeral was followed by celebrations according to Indian custom. Relatives and friends had come for miles to pay their last respects, and that evening, men, women, and children crowded into a home of one of the deceased relations where cards games of skill, and hell-hell were played until day-break.

Hell-hell is one of the oldest Indian games, passed down for many generations. The players are divided into two groups, with any number from four to twenty-four being able to play. This guessing game is played with four bones about four inches long, (two of which are wrapped with black thread), and twelve sticks. Two people each hold a plain and a wrapped bone and the idea of the game is to guess in which hands the wrapped bones are. When a person guesses correctly they call it making a 'shoot,' and a stick is given to that side. The side winning the twelve sticks takes the prize which is very often a horse, and that side can decide whether the animal will be sold and the money divided equally, or whether those players will play elimination card-games, giving the horse to the winner. Sometimes a game may last half an hour, --sometimes all night, and all the time it is going on the sides take turns chanting songs. There are more than a dozen different Indian songs used for this game, all sung in Chinook. During warm weather hell-hell is played outdoors with the players sitting around on the ground, almost forming a circle.

Several Indians from the Cariboo attended the funeral. The old chief of the Canim Indians, Chief Christopher travelled by train and bus, going by way of Cache Creek to Kamloops and then on to Chu Chua, which is fifty-five miles north of Kamloops on the Canadian National Railway. A few decided to make the trip by horse and sleigh, which meant covering a distance of one hundred and ten miles before arriving at Chu Chua. Leaving Canim Lake with the temperature fifty below zero, they drove to Bridge Lake, then followed the newly-built Little Fort - Bridge Lake road to Little Fort, then on to Chu Chua by way of Barriere. The trip took two days and two nights with many rests as the cold and snow made their horses tire easily. The Little Fort--Bridge Lake road had not been used since late the fall before and twelve inches of snow made travelling difficult.

Two Indians made the trip on horseback, coming from Canoe Creek which is one hundred miles beyond Canim Lake in the Chilcotin district. Imagine riding horseback for two hundred and ten miles to attend a funeral! When one of these Indians, Frank Johnny was asked about the trip, he grinned "Pretty cold, and lots of snow, but no too far!" Frank Johnny, over sixty years old, is still one of the finest horse-breakers in the Chilcotin and enjoyed every minute of the two hundred and ten mile trip from Canoe Creek to Chu Chua.

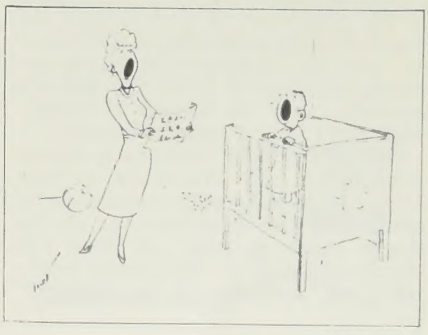
Nature Oddities

By KERRY WOOD

We are fighting a continual war against the insects for the supremacy of rule on this old planet of ours, a battle that is becoming more vivious all the time as the insect pests reduce our foodstuffs and the human race increases in numbers. If men and our allies the birds stopped the fight for but a single month during the summer time, insects would completely devour and destroy that season's crop and perhaps ruin our chances to raise good crops for many seasons to come.

Some naturalists believe that insects will be the final victors of this long-drawn battle, and soleum prophecy of this is given by Dr.W. J. Holland as the final paragraph of his book, "Moths and Butterflies" in the following words:

"When the moon shall have faded out from the sky and the sun shall shine at noonday a dull cherry-red, and the seas shall be frozen over, and the ice-cap shall have crept downward to the Equator from either Pole, and no keels shall cut the waters, nor wheels turn in the mills; when all cities shall have long been dead and crumbled into dust, and all life shall be on the last verge of extinction on this globe; then, on a bit of lichen growing on the bald rocks beside the eternal snows of Panama, shall be seated a tiny insect, preening its antennae in the glow of the worn out sun, representing the sole survival of animal life on this our earth---a melancholy Bug!"



WONDER-WEED WOULD REVOLUTIONIZE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

(from the Alaska Highway News)

CHEMICAL and engineering research in France, Germany and Switzerland, Belgium, Holland and Italy, America and England, has brought to the threshold of the world's markets a serious rival to wool, cotton and flax and other fabric fibres, that is now causing speculation and excitement among agricultural communities in all parts of the world. Even sisal growers of East Africa are looking askance into the future because of the revival of interest in a weed that the ancient Egyptians used extensively; that people in the vastnesses of China still use.

And the weed is Ramie Grass.

Every farmer will tell you that if there is anything that grows well on his farm it is weeds. Ramie, being a weed, needs very little cultivation and once established it just keeps on growing, constantly throwing out suckers.

But why the excitement?

The 110,000,000 Pounds Sterling British Colonial Development Corporation created by the British Government to start new industries that will bring prosperity to the backward areas of the Commonwealth, think enough of it to provide 347,000 Pounds Sterling capital for a 1,000 acre plantation of Ramie in British Honduras. Work on clearing the site has begun. A similar 1,000 acre Ramie plantation is to be planted in North Borneo. The corporation is looking for other sites for Ramie in other Colonies.

The Corporation has adopted Ramie not just because it grows so well and so easily. It is because years of research in the chemical laboratories of Europe and America have culminated in the discovery of a profitable and commercially sound way of treating it so that its commercial handicaps which has kept it from the world's markets, now the domain of cotton, wool and flax has been overcome.

Because of this farmers in Kenya Tanganyika and elsewhere in East Africa, in the heart of the sisal country are finding a ready market for all the Ramie they can grow, at from 125 pounds sterling, to 250 pounds sterling a ton, according to the quality.

It is many times as strong as sisal and can be put to all the uses of sisal. Its strength is notably increased when it becomes wet. The fibre is so fine that textile manufacturers are turning out material with it similar to cotton and, after treatment, artificial silk. Socks made of it do not wear out. Trousers keep their creases.

But this is by no means all. The commercial uses of Ramie fall into two sharply defined classifications. One other class embraces general purposes, almost too numerous to mention.

Ramie is used for filter cloths, for the potteries trade; sheets, pillow cases, table cloths, household linens of all kinds and mats; men's suits , and women's clothing when blended with wool; tropical clothing, shirts and socks; upholstery fabrics, carpets and rugs and curtains.

To take the second class - general purposes. They include fishing nets aeroplane and parachute webbing; soft packing for machinery; firehose; incandescent and gas mantles; tents; tarpaulins, hammocks, sails and canvas; gas masks; tire cords; typewriter ribbons; bond and currency papers; conveyor belting, and so on.

Mr. P. E. Witham, spokesman expert for the Fibres Division of the British Colonial Development Corporation, has this to add to its virtues.

"Ramie," he says, "may be used for blending with other fibres such as wool, silk and rayon, by means of which the strength of these fibres is greatly increased. It is also capable of satisfactorily absorbing dyes. Ramie also possesses a high degree of absorbency and experiments have been successfully carried out and are continuing to make it suitable for medical bandages and cotton wool. Research is also being made into its use as a foundation element for plaster."

An East African grower put it like this: "Ramie will make ropes to hold battleships, the gunny bags to carry your money around to the bank in when you have sold the ropes, and with the money you can buy the memsahib some silken nonsense, all made out of Ramie."

As for its enduring qualities, anyone going to any museum where any ancient Egyptian mummies are kept, can see cloth made of Ramie Grass. It is what the ancient Egyptians wrapped their mummies in, 2,000 years before Christ.

Although Ramie fibre has a delicate lustre, its threads have strength, and Ramie cloth does not shrink and is almost completely rot resisting, it bleaches well, dyes well, blends well with other fibres, and in strength Ramie fibre is about 15 per cent stronger than the best linen, and more than three times as strong as the finest cotton.

And what is it that has kept this universal provider from the world's markets while the demand for wool and cotton has sent prices skyrocketing?

The answer is in one word — gum to which can be added decorticating.

Ramie has one-quarter gum content and three-quarters fibre. This gum must be removed. Then it needs decorticating and decorticator will cost you anything from 300 pounds sterling to 500 pounds sterling.

When harvested, the Ramie canes are stripped and the fibres beaten and soaked and repeatedly rinsed to remove the gummy secretions. Eventually a fine silky white fibre staple, ready for spinning, emerges. The average annual yield per acre of the processed fibre is between 1,500 and 2,000 lbs.

Ramie is claimed to be the oldest textile is use by man.

It belongs to the bast fibre group which includes flax and hemp. It is a kind of stingless nettle on a tall cane stalk.

Ramie is mentioned in early Chinese and Japanese documents and it was also well known in Ancient Egypt. Its use in the far East was common long before cotton gradually came into domestic use in the fourteenth century.

Although the use of cotton goods has increased greatly in America and Europe, Ramie has maintained its importance in the Orient.

The reason is not far to find. Until post-war research found new scientific processes for reducing the crop to its fine lustrous fibre, after removing the gum, it was a long laborious hand-labour, only economic for commercial purposes where labour was cheap and plentiful. And the work was difficult and unpleasant. In China whole families and village communities harvest and prepare it. Everybody helps, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. This was not good enough for more advanced industrialized nations of the world. In 1856 the Government of India offered a prize of 5,000 pounds sterling to any in-

ventor who could produce a cheap and effective commercial de-gumming process. This prize was never claimed.

Before the last war, China alone produced 100,000 tons a year.

The greatest proportion was used for the manufacture of clothing, underwear, sheets, towels and similar articles. Some was exported to Japan where it was made into fishing nets and a marine cordage.

Chinese statistics are unreliable but from those maintained by the Chinese Marine Customs, it is known that about 12,000 to 14,000 tons a year were exported to Europe and America.

Interest in Ramie revived in America in 1926. It was used during the war and research into its preparation was considerably speeded up because of its many uses.

Research in England has been increased markedly since 1945, directed most towards its use as a substitute for cotton. Recent tests in England have proved that Ramie is capable of being spun on the cotton machinery of Lancashire.

Most continental farms use Ramie as a substitute for flax because of its inherent long natural staple.

But before Ramie reaches the mill, that 25 per cent of gum has to be got rid of.

It is because processes for this have now been found by new uses of chemicals that Ramie may, within the next few years, change the economy of flax, cotton and wool growing countries of the world, to say nothing of the producers of other fibres.

On this, in an exclusive interview, Mr. P. E. Witham, Ramie expert for the British Colonial Development Corporation, who has visited France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, Italy and other countries in his search for the best processes said: "Many chemical combinations and processes for large scale economic de-gumming have now been evolved with varying degrees of efficiency. The trouble is that each country is guarding its secret processes jealously.

Perhaps the best process I have found for de-gumming is in Holland, and here too I found the greatest degree of readiness for co-operation for the large scale production of Ramie fibre in the Colonies. The Dutch are now using Ramie for Army clothing.

What we want is a process which can be operated in regions where Ramie is actually grown.

We will now be able to take this process or similar processes to the two experimental Ramie plantations we are now starting in British Honduras on the American seaboard in the Caribbean and in North Borneo. These areas may later be extended and we are now seeking suitable sites for additional Ramie projects in other Colonies.

With the present high prices ruling for cotton and flax, Ramie may well prove to be a suitable alternative for these fibres and may even play a considerable part in the world's fibre economy."

Although Ramie is found in many parts of the world it is not always easy to find a locality where it may be grown as a commercial crop. It needs at least fifty to sixty inches of

continued on page 36

"George - for Heaven's sake!"

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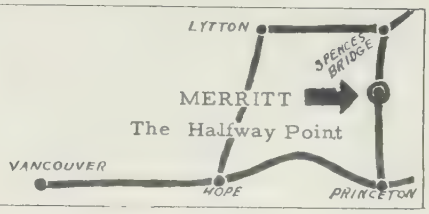

British Columbia - 1851 - 1914

The following is the 14th of a series of excerpts from the historical volume entitled "British Columbia"

by F.W. HOWAY and E.O.S. SCHOLEFIELD

published in 1914 by the S.J. CLARKE Publishing Co. and now out of print

IN THIS ISSUE: - FINANCE and EARLY VANCOUVER ISLAND EVENTS

BUT WHEN, in April, 1858, the the Commodore landed the vanguard of the Fraser River rush at Victoria a wondrous change occured The little town could not accomodate the vast horde that now poured into it, pell-mell. Hundreds of tents lined the harbour side, covered the vacant lots, and glistened between the trunks and foliage of the scattered oaks. With a start Victoria awoke from her lethargy. Soon wooden buildings for stores, hotels, and all sorts of habitations arose as if by magic. The sound of the hammer and the saw was heard at all hours and in every direction. The value of land increased enormously; lots in Victoria and the vicinity that had a few months before gone begging at the upset price of £1 per acre, sold readily for £100 an acre, and soon for far more. On the shore of the harbour wharves were erected; and sailing ships and steam vessels, of every flag, and age, and style, crowded against their sides, laden with every description of articles which a migratory population could possibly, or even could not possibly want.

Victoria threw of her quiet, easy-going air of the fur-trading days. She sprang at one bound into a full-grown, bustling commercial town with a full realization of her opportunities and her destiny. As was to be expected, speculation became rampant. With the glowing accounts from Fraser River during May and June and the constantly increasing immigration, lots rose to fabulous prices - fabulous, at any rate, to the original inhabitants. Land bought from the company at from £10 to £15 was resold within a month at sums varying from £300 to £600. One case is recorded of a half-lot, bought for £5, being sold within a few weeks for £600. Parcels of ground centrally situated measuring from twenty to thirty feet in breadth, by sixty feet in length, rented at from £50 to £100 per month. Sawn timber for building purposes brought as high as £20 per thousand feet.

But as land rose quickly in value, so also it fell. The continued submergence of the bars owing to the freshet of the Fraser, the refusal of that obstinate stream to subside at the behest of the impatient gold-seekers and the cry of "humbug," dispirited the new-comers. The mines were condemmed; a process of depopulation commenced; property fell, and continued to fall or at any rate to remain stagnant, until the discovery of Keithley and Antler creeks in 1860 and 1861.

Confidence was quickly restored, and the spirit of improvement returned. Sidewalks were built, and streets, in which the pedestrian used to sink knee-deep in mire, were macadamized. Between 1861 and 1862 about fifty-six brick buildings were erected, including substantial warehouses well stocked with goods for the trade of Cariboo. Blocks of business structures along Wharf, Store, and Government streets gave an air of solidity to the place. Several spacious hotels, elegantly furnished and supplied with every comfort and luxury compatible with the time, were built. A hospital, a theatre, and a reading-room soon appeared. The Victoria Gas Company was formed in November, 1860, and the water-works company in 1864. The former had the exclusive right of supplying gas in the town for five years at a price not to exceed thirty shillings per thousand cubic feet. The latter introduced excellent spring water in service pipes. Prior thereto the supply of good water had been quite precarious; it had been necessary to bring it in carts from a long distance, and at a charge of sixpence for every three bucketfuls. In 1862 Victoria contained about fifteen hundred buildings. The city was incorporated by an act of the Legislative Assembly in August, 1862. The civic authorities consisted of a mayor and six councillors. The first mayor was Thomas Harris. The first councillors, John Copland, James M. Reid, Richard Lewis, W. M. Searby, Michael Stronach, and Nathaniel M. Hicks. Owing to delays in the completion of the assessment roll, it became impossible to prepare a proper voters' list for the election of the second council in accordance with the incorporation act, and in October, 1863, an act was passed providing temporary qualifications and fixing the election for November 6, 1863. Even then the troubles of the council were not over; doubts arose as to the validity of their acts, and an act of indemnity was passed in December, 1863. The prices

Standing, left to right: L. Goodacre, C. E. Pooley, J. B. Greaves, J. L. Hughes, Edward Mohun, R. B. McMicking, J. Boscowitz. Sitting, left to right: C. E. Redfern, W. J. Macdonald, J. R. Anderson, W. J. Roper, J. Clapperton, J. S. Helmcken.

PIONEERS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

of land rose once more. Each new find in Cariboo had its reflex action on Victoria real estate, which in consequence continued to soar. The value of town lots increased in many parts of the capital over seventy-five per cent during the last nine months of 1862. Frontage on the best business streets then commanded a rental of from two to six dollars per front foot per month. The population was estimated at about six thousand people.

With the gold-seekers came the bankers. Wells, Fargo & Co. was the first institution in either colony that in addition to an express business carried on that of private bankers and purchasers of gold dust. Soon came Alexander D. Macdonald, who early in 1859 established a private bank under the name of Macdonald & Co. Later in the same year a branch of the Bank of British North America was opened in Victoria. The Bank of British Columbia was incorporated in 1862, and immediately commenced business in Vancouver Island and British Columbia.

Macdonald & Co. issued the first paper money that circulated in either colony. For years they did a large business, especially in the purchase of gold dust, which they obtained in exchange for their notes. Their shipments were as follows: 1859, $259, 815; 1860, $349, 292; 1861, $602,734; 1862, $331, 194.

Their notes were unsecured; there was not then in existence in either colony any act placing restrictions upon the issuance of paper money, or providing any safeguard for the public.

The competition which this bank had to meet, both in the purchase of gold-where Wells, Fargo & Co. and the Bank of British Columbia were its chief competitors - and in the mercantile world - where the two chartered banks were its chief opponents - made its continued existence very problematical. Month after month in 1864, Robert T. Smith, its travelling agent, arrived in Victoria with merely $10, 000, $ 20, 000, or $30, 000.

In July, 1864, the Legislature of Vancouver Island passed two ordinances relating to Banks and Banking, one requiring public weekly reports of the assets and liabilities of each institution, and the other forbidding the issuance of paper money, after March 1, 1865, by any person or corporation not having a charter authorizing the same. Macdonald's Bank could not, unless re-organized, live after the latter date. But on the morning of September 23, 1864, it was reported that the bank had been entered during the previous night, by parties unknown, and treasure to the amount of $30, 000 stolen from the safe. No clue whatever could be discovered as to the identity of the robbers. Macdonald, who was at the time in Cariboo, where his notes principally circulated, tried manfully to stay the run upon the bank and redeemed

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Some Observations of a Rambling Angler

By J.R. BAILEY

IT IS NOT my intention to lay claim to any scientific knowledge as to the why and wherefore of depletion of various waters in B.C. but rather to attempt to give you a reasonably fair picture of what has taken place in this locality, no doubt it will be duplicated elsewhere as time goes on.

Most of these observations will refer to Kootenay Lake and waters adjacent thereto, so a few facts about them might be of interest.

Kootenay Lake is the largest inland body of water in B.C. covering an area of approximately 175 square miles, about 80 miles in length and averaging 2 miles in width over most of its length excepting near the outlet where it is considerably more.

It is over three hundred feet deep and never freezes, it is fed mainly by the Kootenay River at its south end and by the Lardeau River at its northern end. This river runs for thirty miles and is in turn fed by Trout Lake. There are of course, numerous creeks large and small running into it as well.

Kootenay Lake is the home of the famous Salmo Kamloopi or Kamloops Trout, or as the local people have lately been calling them, Kootenay Rainbows. Dolly Varden is also a native, as well as Redfish, Whitefish, Squawfish and Suckers.

The Kootenay Rainbows, I shall refer to them by this name in deference to local preference, grow to great size, 20 pounds and over, invariably winning the local derby, and observations of fish at their spawning grounds show fish over thirty pounds with the odd one or two running over forty pounds.

Now these fish provide wonderful sport and are very valuable tourist attraction, and it is a matter of grave concern to the Rod and Gun clubs to watch the steady decline in the number of fish reaching the spawning grounds every spring.

This is, I think, about the only reliable source of information as to the number of fish in the lake, especially as there is only this one proven spawning ground for these fish, namely Gerrard, an area on the Lardeau River from Trout Lake down to Canyon Creek a distance of about three fifths of a mile.

This is a unique area, because it is fed by Trout Lake, which acts as a settling tank for silt, the flow over the spawning beds is clear until it reaches Canyon Creek, from there on it becomes silty, and silted eggs have little chance of maturing.

It is extremely unfortunate that these fish spawn in April and May just before the rivers and creeks become silted up with the spring runoff; they could have been more considerate, then man in his wisdom could have given them spawning grounds at any number of creeks, much more convenient for hatchery operations.

A brief look at hatchery operations over the past thirty five years might be of interest in passing. In 1913 the Department of Marine and Fish at Ottawa built and equipped an eyeing station at Gerrard to take eggs of Kootenay Rainbows for distribution to other waters. For a number of years the annual take of eggs from this source was around a million to a million and a quarter, these were mostly for shipment to other waters all over the continent, some of them even went to lands beyond the sea, of course in those days most of our natural resources were looked upon as being inexhaustible so there is possibly some excuse for these shipments.

Unfortunately, the ravages did not stop at taking eggs only, but in some cases the parent fish were so carelessly manhandled that many of them died too, unlike the Salmon, which die after spawning, trout will spawn many times during their life cycle, so that the loss of these parent fish was really a calamity.

This taking of eggs went on for a number of years until the hatchery was finally closed as the Federal Government turned the Fisheries business over to the Province. Since that time there has eben a somewhat halfhearted effort made to keep the local stock up, by a series of experiments the results of which are extremely disappointing.

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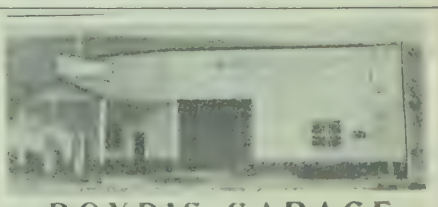

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The Monument

Copied by E. MESSMER
(see page 3)

In the heart of the Black Hills forest
Near the top of the big divide
By a worn out trail, there's a lonely grave
On a sober mountain side.
Where a one eyed man was murdered
And a bob tailed Burro died.

It was during the gold fever
He descended upon the camp
With his bob tailed Donk and a pack of junk
And the general air of a tramp,
With his tattered rags and his grizzled hair
And a limp and an absent camp.

Well we snickered to see his packing
And we watched him go with a grin
And we plumb forgot in a day or two
'til we see him staggering in.
After several weeks with a load of dirt
That would waller a saint in sin.

Well he cashed his stuff and beat it
For the rest of his pile 'tis said
But he don't come back, so we go and look
And we find him cold and dead
With a couple of holes in his gizzard
And blown off was the top of his head.

So we planted him there in the forest
And we know its a howling shame
But we couldn't put a thing on his grave
Because none of us knew his name
Nor a thing of his friends or relations
Or the country from where he came.

And the sober eyed bob tailed Burro
Hung around with a mournful air
While we finished our work, but when all
Was done still the Donk wouldn't budge a hair.
So at last we unbuckled his trappings
And we left him a-standing there.

Well its maybe six years or longer
When I happened to pass the spot
And I gives a look and my hat comes off
And I'm all choked up and hot.
For the grave has at last a marker
Of the kind that ain't made or bought

Yes its only a bare old carcass
And I'm maybe a darned old fool
But to me there was never a tombstone
That was built by hand or tool
That could half compare with the
bleached out bones
Of that bob tailed Burro Mule.

But I think I could go plumb peaceful
And be happy and satisfied
With a stone that meant half as much
as them bones
By the grave on the mountain side,
Where the one eyed man was murdered
And the bob tailed Burro died.

- Author Unknown

Frontal Attack - - From The Rear!

By WILLIAM D. MORRIS

WHEN WE planned our house, we took into consideration everything the elements had to offer. Tornado or torrential outpourings from heaven would not quail the stout construction of our house. We made it as near to being fire-proof as any wooden building can ever be. Nothing was forgotten. It represented the pinnacle of security and accomplishment and gave us a feeling of utter satisfaction, and proved to us (there are seven in our family) that a man's home is his castle.

As most striving young families building their homes with no other income save that derived from the daily pursuit of a precarious livelihood, we moved into our house long before it assumed the outline of a moderately finished home. In fact our house was minus doors and windows when we encamped under it's roof. However, the weather of June was all that could be expected of a generous Cariboo summer. We were none the worse for our exposure and took the whole thing as part of our education in life.

The days sped by as on wings. Hard work brought with it a joyous fatigue that comes only after one has tasted the thrill of accomplishing something worthwhile. Bernice (my wife) and I were doing all our own building and the nights usually found us worn-out and too tired for shows, radio, visitors or any other diversion save sleep. Ah, the utter peace of relaxation that came to me was sent from heaven. Those nights were spent trying to assume the flexibility and sociability of a Hemlock log. About as responsive, too.

It was during one of those nights in June when Morpheus had done such a thorough job of befuddling my senses, that I was thrust rudely back into the realm of the stupidly alive. I awakened vociferously...

"Wake up Bee. Wake up. The Russians are attacking us. My Gosh. Do you smell that? That's mustard gas. We've got to head for the hills quick." I was gasping. The smell that came seeping into our bedroom was overpowering and beyond description.

Bee's calm voice routed my panic and aligned my equilibrium.

"For goodness' sake behave yourself. It's only a skunk. It is awful, though, isn't it?"

After I realized what it was, and that we only had a skunk in our bedroom, I became pacified and once again sank into slumber. It takes more than one skunk to keep me awake but that mustard gas--that's different. A person doesn't want to fool around too much with that.

For the next couple of months our daily routine was of a pattern. Lots of hard work followed by a good rest. The days went by and had we not been so busy, would have become boring. However, we had no time to become bored. The house had to be finished before the cold weather arrived. By this time the building was sealed up except for the basement. There were no doors on the basement both at the outside entrance and up into the kitchen. Since that one gas attack, no indication of skunks had come to our notice except upon two occasions when the children had claimed that they had seen skunks in the front yard. Of course I didn't believe any of these shennanigans until the evidence was placed right before my nose. After this I'll believe people without demanding proof. As it happened, I did not ask for proof, neither was it presented upon a purely voluntary basis. It was forced upon us.

One evening, as we all, except David, eight years old, who was late again, sat down to supper, the front door burst violently open. My wife and I eyed each other incredulously. Oh no. It couldn't be. But it was. We could smell our boy before he entered the house. David's entrance was indeed dramatic to say the least. He had one hand over his eyes while with the other, he swam into the light. He

had no sooner entered than with a wild stampede the rest of us bolted for the wide-open yonder. David had met up with the skunk. Gadsooks it was awful. Let the Russians dare to step into British Columbia now.

As we stood outside pondering our next move, Bee, with a motherly cry, rushed back into the house, her maternal instincts calling her to aid her son. Observing her brave act, I too, recalled my own responsibilities so without more ado I rushed down to the corner store for some cigars I had forgotten to pick up on my way home from work. An hour or so later I rushed home again to see if I could be of any help.

Everything had quited down once more. David was sitting in a corner with only his head sticking out from an enveloping blanket. Sharon was just coming into the house from the garden where she had buried the offending clothes. I wondered what was going to happen to the poor innocent cabbages when they smelled that. Bee was just going to reprimand me when I saved myself by asking David what had happened.

The boy's answer was simple and had happened a thousand times, though of course not to us. He had seen a strange cat playing with our feline and had stopped to pick the stranger up in his arms when, boom, the cat seemed to explode in his hands. After that the boy was not able to say just what actually did happen until his mother began to undress him. Of course I had to give him a lecture. I explained at great length what the boy had already discovered in a few moments. "My goodness," I ended, "Suppose we had not been at home and the door had been locked and you had been forced to go to the neighbors for help. People have been shot for a lot less than that."

Things once more got back to normal, then all of a sudden strange things began happening. There were queer noises during the nights. Small items began disappearing and our cat a beautiful persian female developed an enormous appetite. Bee would fill up two saucers with canned cat-food and by the next morning the dishes would be licked as clean and sparkling as a freshly washed saucer could be. However, this amount seemed entirely inadequate for fairly soon afterwards, other choice morsels began to receive attention. Such things as bacon, bread, lard etc. I commented upon this to Bee but, as usual, my wife had a remarkable understanding of these matters. Now we all knew of the blessed event that was soon to occur and Bee explained that the cat needed much more food because she had more than one mouth to feed. I just said "Uhhuh," as intelligently

continued on page 17

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The Mighty Hunter!

By EARL HICKLING

THE 1950 season was drawing to a close and I had pretty well resigned myself to the fact that I would get no deer that year, and then fate took a hand. I had been working and on the afternoon of November 29th, with six others I was laid off. On the spur of the moment two of my companions and I decided to go hunting the next day, - the last day of the season.

We knew the location of a large number of deer but due to icy roads we were unable to get within walking distance of them so it was 'hunt where you are and hope for the best.' We We left the car at the bottom of Deep Creek Hill and climbed that vertical piece of scenery the hard way. We separated at the top of the hill and I headed East towards the high banks of the Fraser. There was a devil of a noisy crust on the snow and I had the idea that I would find some partly open country in that direction.

There is some nice hunting ground up there, alder and mountain ash and the odd patch of red willow. It's hard to hunt in that stuff at the best of times and with that crust crunching it was like sending the game a telegram. Daniel Boone couldn't have got a shot in that stuff and I'm no Daniel In desperation I went on to the fir thickets along the rim of the Fraser. It was no better. There were fresh tracks but the deer that made them might just as well have been ghosts of long departure. Tracks made darn poor soup and I was firmly convinced that was all I'd have come sundown and the end of 1950's hunting.

On the very rim, with a 100 foot drop six feet away I kicked an old fir snag to pieces and lit a match to it. With a foot of snow and nothing burnable within ten feet I had no fear of fire so sat down to warm myself and eat my sandwich. I was comfortable, my hands warm and my sandwich hawed out. The smoke of my fire drifted away on the light east breeze. A moose bird lit in a tree close by and started to figure out how to get a part of my sandwich. Everything was nice and peaceful but I was a hunter and one hunter that would go home skunked. I'd have to face the wife and small son who looks on me as a mighty hunter. Nuts!

The steady crunch of approaching footsteps roused me. Another hunter coming in to eat lunch by the fire. I started to hail him and then in a grouchy mood let him follow the smoke of the fire in; that must have been how he had got the line on where he was. I turned to see who it was and caught the outline of a deer. My head snapped back, it had horns! The rifle came up smoothly and silently... a three point, and close, unbelievably close. Too close... got to hold low.. he sees me.. Wham! He leaps.. Wham, Wham, and he is gone. Only the swaying fir branches tell of his passing. The moose bird settles back on his perch and all is peaceful again.

I paced off to where the deer had stood, sixteen paces.. My God. I follow his trail and at the seventh jump I see a drop of blood; the next track shows a larger drop; my pulse comes back to normal and then climbs. Fifty yards ahead, crumpled against a scrub fir is my 1950 Mule Deer, a beautiful three point. My chest swelled. The mighty hunter!

"Pacific Pete" in Big Program

Westcoast All-Canadian Line to Coast Would Draw Supplies from Northern Areas Only, Leaving Central and Southwestern Fields for Alberta Consumption and Southeastern Areas for Export Eastward

By SIDNEY NORMAN

WITH THE intention of developing natural gas reserves in Northeast British Columbia at high speed, to supplement northern Alberta gas that would feed into Westcoast Transmission Co.'s all-Canadian, Pine Pass route line to Vancouver and cities of the United States on the Pacific Coast, Pacific Petroleums, backer of Westcoast, in association with Sunray Oil Corporation, last month inaugurated a big drilling campaign on a B. C. 256,000-acre reservation. The objective is to provide a market where there is no foreseeable outlet in sight and at the same time interfere as little as possible with supply of Alberta natural gas for domestic use.

First well, now being drilled by subsidiary, Peace River Natural Gas Co., is Sunrise No. 1, 30 miles inside B. C., six miles north of the new Hart Highway and about 15 miles west of the Alaska Highway, between Dawson Creek and Fort St. John. Success here will be immediately followed by several more wells in the area.

During the month, a sale of the company's 17 wells in Turner Valley was completed. While the amount involved was not announced by Federated Petroleums, the buyer, it is known to have been several hundred thousand dollars, to be added to Pacific's $3,000,000 working capital provided by recent heavy financing in New York. Pacific officials feel that the interests of shareholders will be better served by use of the additional capital in the extensive plans under way in the new fields.

Westcoast's ammended all-Canadian natural gas pipeline route to Vancouver and cities of the U.S. Pac. Coast.

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FRONTAL ATTACK - cont. from pg. 15

as any mere male could and passed the whole thing off; yet still I wondered.

About two months after that first odorous attack, the little drama arrived at it's climax. As usual, when Bee hears a strange Noise in the basement, who do you think goes to investigate? Me. No matter how hard I work during the day, any little noise is enough to wake up the guardian of the house and it's always me she sends to reclaim the peace. As there was no door on the basement entrance a sneaky bitch-dog, an opportunist, used to sneak into the house in the dead of night stealing whatever groceries we so inadvertantly left to the mercies of such prowlers. During the hot weather the basement, being so much cooler than the upper part of the house, made a good storeroom for perishables and we took advantage of this until that sneaky dog made this a too expensive habit.

However, on this particular night, I made my way through the kitchen to the basement stairs, on my way to investigate a noise Bee had heard in her sleep. I flicked the switch at the top of the steps and received the shock of my life.

Halfway up the stairs and in single file was the strangest parade I have ever seen. Our faithful cat was leading five skunks up into our kitchen for their nightly snack.

My mind crystalized. Things began to click into a semblance of sanity and I understood much of the mystery that had enveloped our house for the greater part of the summer. The skunks had arrived that night long ago when I thought the Russians had taken over British Columbia; had made friends with our cat and our family, although we didn't know it, and had firmly entrenched themselves under the roof of the Morris household. The cat, living up to the high standards of Cariboo hospitality, had shown the skunks through the house and had shared her food with her friends. Of course she could do no less. There were five skunks. Father Skunk, Mother Skunk and three little Skunks. However, as the little skunks grew, the cat's food was soon found to be inadequate, so the self-appointed pests, I mean pets, were forced to go further afield in their search for sustenance. Hence the disappearance of the bigger, more expensive items such as bacon etc.

My surprise was great as I stood there in amazement watching the parade up the basement stairs. The cat was so pleased to see me and so eager to introduce her friends that she rubbed against my shaking legs, purring and meowing enthusiastically. This I could stand but as the skunks, after introductions all around, began rubbing themselves on my legs, too, I abandoned the field to my little friends. As I hurried back to the bedroom I vowed that I was going to teach Bee a lesson for getting me up in the middle of the night, especially this night.

As I climbed into bed I mumbled to my wife that there was someone in the kitchen who wished to see her. Then I heard her get up as I pretended to go to sleep. The less said of the remainder of that night the better. I will mention, though, that it was precious little sleep I got that night.

After we knew the skunks were permanent tenants in our basement, for

continued on page 27

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Twin mining towns at the head of Portland Canal, 650 miles north of Vancouver, B.C., are Stewart, B.C. (at head of the channel to the right) and Hyder, Alaska (left of centre). B.C. - Alaska boundary bisects mountain in the centre of picture.

Stewart, B.C.

By GUY LAWRENCE

IF YOU had visited the head of the Portland Canal just one hundred and five years ago you would have run slap-bang into another war.

It was just a tribal affair between the natives but it was quite a husky affair at that. The war-like Haidee Tribe of Queen Charlotte Islands were at the time making their main effort to gain a footing on the mainland, and that they did not succeed was due to the united efforts of the Stikenes, Takus, Hazelton, and Tahltan tribes.

This was before the United States had acquired Alaska, and before there was any regularly defined boundary line. Many, many, years ago I became acquainted with one of the defending warriors. His name was Khatuna, and he was a Tahltan then at the ripe age of ninety one.

A number of battles were fought, and the climax came at the head of the Portland Canal where the small port of Stewart nestles today. The haidees were driven back to where they belonged, and there must have been more or less of a naval engagement fought all the way down the eighty mile Portland Canal, because numerous war arrows were found in clefts of rocks along the shore by enterprising prospectors fifty and sixty years later.

Not much is known about the head of the Portland Canal for the next forty-five years, other than that the small government survey boat "Quadra" may have chartered the soundings.

However in the autumn of 1896 two prospectors accompanied by two Indians, discovered placer gold in large quantities fully nine hundred miles North. This led to one of the greatest stampedes ever known, and was of course the Klondike Gold Rush.

The Klondike Gold Rush set many agile brains working, and one of these was a man named Burgess. Burgess laid no claims to having discovered gold in the Klondike, but he did insist that he had found fair prospects at the head of the Naas River. He straightway formed a company and offered to lead these men to the ground. With this purpose in view a steamer was chartered, loaded with supplies, and headed for the North. He claimed the easiest way to reach the headwaters of the Naas was to go up the Portland Canal, debark at its upper end and proceed overland via Meziaden Lake to the Naas. He inveigled sixty four men to participate in this venture, and the vessel starting from Seattle in 1898 made the trip to the head of the canal without misadventure. This is the first time we hear of a passenger steamer neg-

(photos courtesy of Paul Gauthier and Mrs. A.J. Elliott)

FULL

A never-ending tourist attraction of the Portland Canal area are the many glaciers. The one shown above is 35 miles long and is unique in that it has a lake at the foot

EMPTY

of it which, with clock-like regularity, first fills up to a depth of approximately 200 feet and then mysteriously empties itself completely - once every three hours.

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otiating the Portland Canal.

On arriving where the Port of Stewart stands today, they found one mile of mud flats, one small native shack, unoccupied because its owner was away either trapping or hunting, and no means of lightening their cargo except by using small boats and wading through mud.

Nothing daunted them because they had the gold fever and they soon had this task done and were proceeding on their own way. It was forty miles to Meziaden Lake which they had no difficulty in finding as there was a well defined Indian trail. Soon they were on the Naas River itself and industriously panning up and down it's banks. Not a trace of gold did they find. They at once showed great resentment toward Burgess. They considered they had invested a great deal of money and they had been severely hoaxed. Soon they were threatening Burgess, but Burgess had an agile brain. In the darkness of one night he deserted the party, headed back to tide-water, and procured the services of a native to take him to the mouth of the canal, where he possibly flagged some passing steamer.

The party immediately broke up after dividing the supplies and scattered to other parts. Some of them headed inland towards Hazelton, but most of them elected to return to the mouth of the canal and head for home.

Of those that headed for the head of the canal was a man named Rainey, (J. D. Rainey) and when he reached the tide flats he liked the look of the surroundings so much that he elected to stake a quarter section of land. He

An average winters snowfall at the head of Portland Canal.

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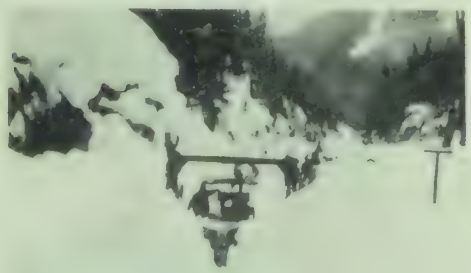
did not know whether he was in U.S. Territory or Canadian, so to make sure he recorded his holdings with both countries. Next he turned his attention to mining. Not placer but lode mining. All around him were high mountains, and these he commenced to prospect. He was first rewarded on the headwaters of Bitter Creek which joins the main Bear River some ten or twelve miles from tidewater. His prospect he called the Grizzly Mine, and after sending the assays down below he was able to get certain mining promotors interested.

Numerous quartz prospectors now commenced to arrive. In 1902 a man by the name of J. Wardlaw Stewart drifted in the district. He was one of B.C's. richest gold mine, the Premier, (now known as the Silbak-Premier), 18 miles from the head of the Canal, Of the $37,600,000 paid in dividends by gold mines during the 40 year period between 1897 to 1936 - over $18, 800,000 was paid by the Premier. In other words it had earned for its investors more money than all the rest of B.C's gold mines put together.



Plowing the road between Hyder and Stewart.

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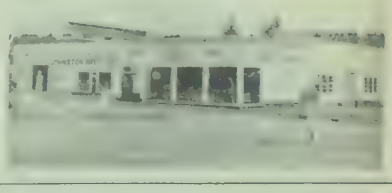

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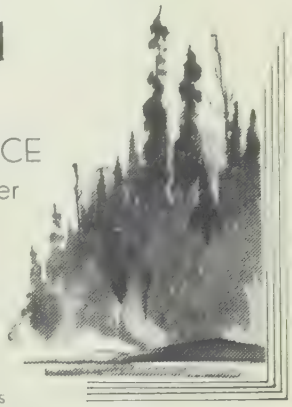

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four or five brothers all interested in staked a pre-emption on the tide flats next to Rainey. Stewart also prospected and obtained at least fair results in several locations of the small district.

In 1906 the boundary line between Canada and Alaska was surveyed and both men found they were on Canadian soil. The Stewart Brothers immediately staked more ground surrounding the tide flats and had a townsite laid out. The town lots sold like hotcakes. It was a new mining camp, easily accessible to salt water and it appealed to the general public for these reasons.

The small town named Stewart, after Robert M. Stewart one of the brothers who was now holding down the job of postmaster. Mining capital poured in, and the town soon took on the aspect of other thriving mining towns.

But there were bigger things to come, much bigger-events that would reach to the utmost corners of the world. In 1907 a mining company known as the "Portland Canal Mining and Development Company" obtained such good results from their mine that they installed a mill of seventy five tons capacity. 7,000 tons of ore was mined, and a further 2,000 tons of concentrates was shipped out.

The crude ore was reported to average $10 per ton. Undoubtedly this company was handled by a very energetic and far-seeing management,

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and later they obtained a charter for a railway from their property to the head of navigation - with possibly a view to extending the railway to the famous Ground Hog Coal field, and even to the Peace River itself.

The railway charter was acquired by no less a statesman than Sir Donald Mann, and it can readily be imagined that his name alone added great prestige to the venture.

The fact that the Federal Government itself was heavily involved at the time in building the Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad made little or no difference, as this new railroad to be known as the Pacific Great Eastern, if it did ultimately become a transcontinental, would be fully three hundred miles North of the G. T. P.

Now indeed the port of Stewart received great impetus. Capital rolled in from all sides, from Great Britain, the United States, and both East and West of Canada. Stewart was the cynosure of all eyes. At least forty six mining companies, small and large were in the field. Stock brokers made fortunes from this district alone.

Fourteen miles of the railway was completed and put into operation. The rolling stock was not large, two engines, flat cars, and one or two passenger cars. Further than this, a roundhouse was built for the engines and a dock at least a mile long projected itself into the deeper waters of the canal.

Then suddenly, without warning the crash came. It may have been caused by war rumour, or possibly by one of those periodical depressions, but it came, and overnight the railroad ceased to function never to be put into operation again. Some people say that the engineers had overlooked the terrific problem of overcoming the coast range, which would have involved a tunnel almost seven miles long. The camp now had lost one of its chief inducements. Many mining companies had relied on the railway to ship their ore, now they were more or less stranded.

Most of the mines closed down, although they knew that the railway company would still renew their charter year by year. The town which had sprung up like a mushroom and had boasted 10,000 inhabitants now shrunk, but finally when World War 1

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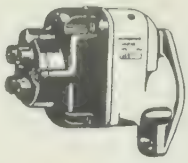

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did come population had ebbed to seventeen people - not counting a few miners in the hills.

Of these miners in the hills were some eight or nine men high up on the Salmon River. This river has its source in Alaska, and although the ground they were working was in British Columbia it was necessary to travel at least thirteen miles on Alaskan soil to reach the mine. They worked for the first year or so, with traces of encouragement from what they uncovered; they never were discouraged, but often they had to live on a spartan diet. By and by the vein they were working on improved; they were able to raise capital, but they had no intention of selling out. They decided to save their ore until they

The Big Missouri, another noted producer of the district.

Glaciers cover a good deal of the area beyond the head of the canal including mineral outcroppings. At times tunnels are driven through the ice to contact veins at greater depth.

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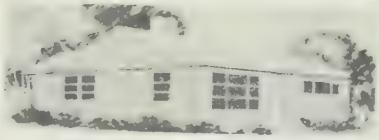

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could make a real bang-up shipment-one that would re-imburse their backers and still leave them a shot in the locker. Finally they shipped five hundred tons of ore - not handpicked, just ore. This shipment yielded in the neighborhood of $175,000, which is good returns in any man's country. Now at last they knew they had a mine. And so did several others; chiefly capitalists.

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After almost forty years the mine is still working, although all, or or most of the highgrade ore has been worked out. Surrounding properties have been acquired, and all show good mineral prospects, and any day we may hear of a further bonanza being struck.

But what of Stewart the little port? Since the closing down of the Sir Donald Mann railway venture it has led a ding-dong existence - what town in British Columbia has not? But it has had it's good seasons with the steady hope of more to come. The mining game is like that; so much depends on the price of metals, but that the gold "is in them gol-darn hills" no one doubts. It is unlikely that those courageous men who worked so steadfastly on the Premier Mine during its initial stage should have found the only rich producer, nobody believes this, and the writer least of all.

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PIONEER PILOTS OF THE SKEENA
continued from pg. 5

Then as railway construction moved inland from tidewater he built a tunnel-stern shallow draft speedboat which was capable of navigating the Upper Skeena. He was there three seasons and then took the boat overland to Francois Lake where he operated it as a ferry.

In the meantime he organized a company and built the sternwheeler "Inlander". He acted as purser for first season and then engaged Frank Waller and Jack Morrison for the position, with our old friend Captain Bowser as skipper and our step-brother Wm. L. Alexander as Chief Enneer.

Needless to say the new steam-operated steering gear was greatly appreciated since the helmsman could navigate the Center Canyon with one dand. I saw this done in 1911 when I made a trip through to Hazelton. On a previous trip I saw four men bearing down on the ship's wheel in order to hold it in position, and I'm sure that the Indian pilot, Andrew Allen, must have weighed at least 300 pounds.

The Grand Trunk sternwheelers were very fine boats. There were five of them, but were operated by "chechako" construction workers. As soon as navigation closed they were dismantled and the machinery was shipped to Tete Jaune Cache where it was fitted into new hulls for service on the Upper Fraser. As soon as there were through trains operating out of

Steamer "Hazelton" emerging from a tight spot in the Kitselas Canyon.

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S.S."Caledonia" heads into a tight spot on the upper Skeena.

Prince Rupert all stern-wheelers tied up.

The "Inlander" went on the ways at Cunninghams at Port Essington in 1913 and Captain Bonser retired in Oregon after twenty-seven years service in northern B.C. waters. He passed away soon after the close of navigation..his work over and well done.

The "Port Simpson" was the last of the old fleet and made her final trip on the Stikine in 1915. Captain Jackman and my two brothers, William and Marsden (Tiny) Alexander, chief and assistant engineers, and purser Gordon Lockerby, were among the crew.

The old Hudson's Bay Fort burned down in August 1913 and this ended their trade with Telegraph Creek, B.C

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FRONTAL ATTACK- cont. from pg.17

some strange reason we lost our tension. Probably the fact that we now knew the cause of the strange doings in our house eased our minds to some extent. Of course we all moved carefully for we well knew that no matter how friendly were our skunks, the least little fright would release their hair-triggered apparatus and so end a beautiful friendship. The skunks made wonderful pets, though from a distance, of course. They developed a watch-dog tendency that had it's good points. They kept away all stray dogs and those unreliable tom-cats that descend upon an innocent household for a brief while leaving another source of fresh worries in their wake. Peddlars and visitors were treated alike. The results were always the same. We regretted this because there were some people whom we would have liked to have stay for a more lengthy period. However, those short visits became nerve-wracking for we never knew when the skunk's resentment would become more pronounced. I was beginning to have an attachment for the little fiends, I mean friends, but my patient Bee gave me an ultimatum; get rid of the skunks or else--. I didn't know what the "else" referred to but I had no desire to press the matter further. I hated to part with our little tneants. They had been with us for so long. However, they were costing us good hard-earned money and should we so desire, I am sure we could let our basement out to more remunerative tenants. How to go about it, though That was a horse of another color. A person just couldn't go up to a skunk and say: "Get out." Neither could a person use force. I like my skunks happy not resentful and there's no easier way of getting a skunk's back up than to

kick it out of your basement.

David was the one who really forced my hand, though. I suppose he had been having a little trouble with some of the bigger boys at school and when I overheard my son telling one of his sisters that: "You know what I'm gonna do? I'm gonna fill up my water pistol with 'skunk-juice' and squirt it at the first-baseman." I just naturally made my mind up then and there that the skunks must go.

I wracked my brains to think of a way, acceptable by all, even the skunks. I blocked up the basement stairs and stayed up one night until our cheery tenants began to prowl. Being unable to ascend the stairs, the little animals walked out through the doorless entrance of their own volition. I simply barricaded the opening. After that we were all very careful to leave no means of allowing the skunks to make another beach-head.

As I was saying, our house is built strong and we took all the elements into consideration when we planned the structure but we were betrayed by a skunk or rather a cat. Speaking of cats and skunks and blessed events; I wonder if never the twain------?

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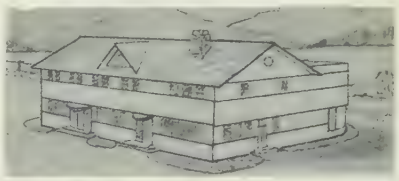

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OBSERVATIONS OF AN ANGLER
continued from page 12

The Rod and Gun Clubs of the district have been watching with a great deal of interest some of these experiments and have co-operated in every possible way to save these fish from extinction.

They have voluntarily have asked that the bag limit be reduced, first, from 25 to 15 fish, then from 15 to 12 and in the case of the larger fish, we now have a catch limit of 25 pounds plus one fish. The recommendations made and hatchery schemes designed to augment the natural propagation have also received help from these clubs. Concrete rearing ponds have been built by the members and financial help was also given towards purchase of refrigeration units for fish food storage.

At that time artificial propagation of trout was considered to be the most efficient means of restocking waters that were becoming depleted but after 22 years of these operations and careful consideration of the results achieved there is room for grave doubt that we have accomplished very much.

In support of this reasoning, we must face the facts that point out very definitely that all is not well.

First, let us look at the spawning operations. In the early days it was a simple matter to collect a million eggs at Gerrard because there were plenty of fish to take them from. Today it is a difficult job to get four hundred thousand, and a greater number of men have to be employed to get even that amount because of the scarcity of fish. We are told that water conditions during collection time is responsible for the diminished take, but we find this difficult to swallow, for after all the sun shone in 1913 and melted snow in the spring very much as it does today.

Then another very noticeable indication of the decrease is in the conditions around the mouths of the

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creeks, especially in September. This is the season when a certain large grey fly hatches in the upper reaches of most creeks; these flies float down to the lake usually reaching the lake about two thirty in the afternoon P. S. T. They have a nice juicy body and were taken by the trout before they reached the tail of the eddy. What do you find today? The writer has sat at several of these creeks over the past few years and watched these same flies come down the creek and not a fish to take them. In fact upon closer inspection of the waters you find that the eddies are full of the flies some of them actually decomposing on the water. The almost total lack of these younger fish is giving the serious minded conservationist grave cause for apprehension, for these fish are the potential parent stock for the future. What has become of these fish is indeed the $64 question.

We used to think that artificial propagation was the remedy for all these ills, but let us look at our neighbors and their experiment in Lake Pend Orielle. In 1940 this Idaho lake was stocked with 100,000 of our Gerrard eggs from which they got a good hatch 88% I believe. None of this variety of fish had ever occured in this lake before. This introduction was the first, and they did exceptionally well owing to the large numbers of red fish which forms the staple diet of the mature Kootenay Rainbow. They developed so rapidly that in six years these fish attained a weight in excess of thirty pounds, indeed, one was weighed in at thirty-seven and one half pounds. This attracted the attention of anglers from all over the continent and a real boom was on. A modern hatchery was built at Clark's Forks and some of the original stock was retained as brood stock and money was of no consequence so long as they could raise fish. And yet in spite of their best efforts they have been unable to maintain their stock. In 1948 the number of fish was negligible, and experts had been called in to diagnose the trouble. It seems that there is no creek or river emptying into Lake Pend Orielle suitable for natural spawning and the hatchery replacements are not filling the bill. It seems to point to the conclusion that the Rainbows there are doomed to extinction.

Now in view of what has taken place over there with unlimited funds at their disposal, we feel that it is reasonable to conclude that the natural propagation at present taking place in our own Gerrard spawning grounds is possibly the only thing that is keep-

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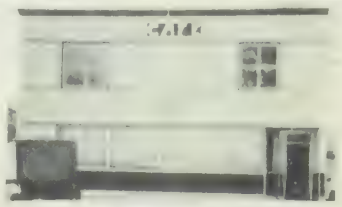

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ing the Rainbows from extinction in our own waters, and it is also possible that our restocking experiments have been in vain. Certainly we have never been able to say with certainty that such and such a planting has definitely been responsible for an increased population in Kootenay Lake, most of these experiments have been very discouraging.

The initial stocking of hitherto barren lakes has shown some measure of success insofar as the fish so planted have in most cases survived although they have in many cases been dwarfed in size owing to various causes such as lack of suitable food or too high an altitude for a fish to have sufficient time in which to develop, as some of the higher altitude lakes freeze early and ice remains so late that the fish have only a few months free from ice. It is remarkable how quickly fish will become dwarfed. A potential twenty pounder if unable to find the right kind of food will live on what he can get and although he may be only half a pound in weight in four or five years of scanty feeding he will still spawn and the next generation will possibly be smaller still. This has been demonstrated in several of the smaller lakes in this district.

Then, of course, we have another factor entering the picture today the tremendous increase in the number of people fishing and the greater distances travelled with outboards and launches and the comparative ease of reaching spots that were seldom fished years ago. This is putting a greater drain on the waters and necessarily the replacements must be on a larger scale than ever before if we are to keep pace with the increased fishing pressure.

The game department has, at long last, put biologists to work on some of these problems and we shall await their reports with a great deal of interest. We only hope it is not too late.

As time goes on we must expect to have more and more people making the most of their vacations and taking trips into the less-frequented fishing spots, the improvements which are promised in our roads will bring in many anglers from the States so that we must look ahead to the changing conditions which will put greater fishing pressures than ever and further aggravate the situation.

The answer may be found before it is too late. If not we shall be in the position of several of the States to the south, where a given piece of water is stocked one week, kept closed for a short time, then opened, and within a month is fished bare. Let us hope that day never arrives.

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HISTORY of B.C. - cont. from pg. 11

his paper as fast as it was presented Thus he succeeded in re-establishing public confidence in his institution. But his resources were insufficient to stand the shock, and in November the bank closed its doors. The miners of Cariboo were the principal sufferers: it is said that their losses amounted to $100,000. Macdonald's fine home on Michigan street in Victoria was sacrificed to meet his creditors; he lost all and left the country a ruined man.

By a proclamation dated January 18, 1860, Governor Douglas, after reciting that he had been instructed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in pursuance of a recommendation of Her Majesty's Privy Council so to do, declared: "That the Port of Victoria, including Esquimalt Harbour, is, and shall be until otherwise determined by proper authority, a Free Port of Entry and Clearance for Ships and Goods, save and except the fees now levied thereon." Until the union of the two colonies on November 19, 1866, Victoria was a free port in the strictest sense of the term. With the exception of Hong Kong and Labuan it was the only place in the vast category of British depots for ocean commerce in which no customs duties were leviable.

But long before the union was consummated there existed two divergent views upon the free port question, even on the island itself, where the Protection vs. Free Trade debate frequently waxed keen and warm. It was argued that great as might be the inducements to agriculturists of a certain class to come and take possession of the fruitful valleys of Vancouver Island, yet it must be remembered that these at the best were of very limited extent and that agricultural pursuits must perforce take a secondary position to those of trade and commerce. On the other hand those who advocated the abolition of the free port system urged that no country could continue to prosper or even become wealthy without agricultural resources, and that in their case the very paucity of the agricultural possibilities more strongly emphasized the necessity for protection. And, as invariably happens in such a discussion, neither convinced their opponent.

The anomalous situation of the colony of Vancouver Island clearly appears in the fact that though fully equipped with two legislative bodies the Governor, of his own mere authority, issues such an important proclamation as that above mentioned, which dictates a line of policy and touches revenue. So, too, it will be found that the land laws of the colony take the form of proclamation by the Governor alone and not that of acts of Legislature. Thus the laws which fixed the price of land at £1 per acre, and later reduced it to 4s. 2d, are proclamations. The root of these distinctions of authority lies in the grant of the island to the company and the strange arrangement whereby a private corporation was to finance the colony and to administer the lands to recoup itself.

The life of the first Legislative Assembly expired in 1859. It had been composed of but seven members; its successor, which was elected early in 1860, had thirteen members. These Legislatures were elected for three years. The members received no indemnity. The suffrage was limited to persons owning twenty acres or more of freehold. This high qualification led to a peculiar incident in the celebrated Nanaimo election held on June 23, 1859. The candidate was Captain John Swanson, of the Hudson's Bay Company's steamer "Laboucher" and Captain Charles E. Stuart was the only qualified voter! According to the return Captain Swanson was duly elected by a majority of one! The Colonist (newspaper) very rightly remarked thereupon: "This caps the climax of all elections that were ever heard of, where the Anglo-Saxon language is spoken."

The Legislative Council of Vancouver Island for 1860, which was a body nominated by the Governor consisted of: Hon. John Work, Hon. Roderick Finlayson, Hon. David Cameron, judge; Hon. Donald Fraser clerk; Rev. Edward Cridge.

The House of Assembly as elected consisted in 1860 of the following members: for Victoria City, George H. Cary and Selim Franklin; for Vic-

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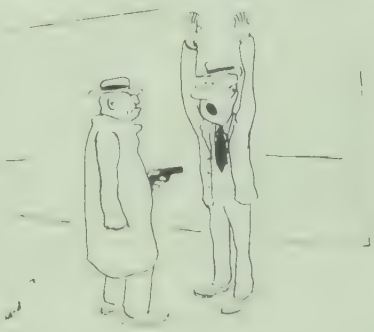
toria District, H.P.P. Crease, A. Waddington, and Dr. W. F. Tolmie; for Esquimalt Town, G. T. Gordon; for Esquimalt District, Dr. J.S. Helmcken and James Cooper; for Lake District, G. F. Foster; for Sooke, W. J. Macdonald; for Saanich, John Coles; for Salt Spring Island, J. J. Southgate; for Nanaimo, A. R. Green.

Before the expiration of this House there were a number of changes, of which the most important were the resignation of Messrs. Crease and Waddington and the election of Joseph W. Trutch and Dr. James Trimble as their successors; the resignation of Messrs. Cooper and Green who were succeeded by R. Burnaby and D. B. Ring respectively; and the resignation of G. T. Gordon and the election in his stead of Thomas Harris, who was himself succeeded by William Cocker.

The chief sources of revenue were a tax of one percent assessed upon the market value of real estate, trading licenses, liquor licenses, and harbour dues. The proceeds from the sale of Crown lands, though included in the colonial revenue, were strictly applicable to the support of the civil list, as the colony found to its sorrow when the trouble with Governor Kennedy arose a few years later.



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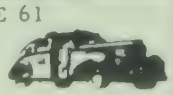

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CAN WE LEARN FROM HISTORY

continued from page 2

ary patience of the Chinese peasant, he is as stout an individualist as can be found among any people. His awakening to abuses foisted upon him by his rulers, has been slow. But so has ours. Now he seems to have become conscious of his backwardness in the political and economical fields, and decided to get rid of his oppressors and try something new. That the new oppressors may prove to be even harder taskmasters than the old (although that would be pretty difficult) they, may, at least show some efficiency. The "Peanut" as General Stillwell, who lived and worked with Chiang Kai Chek, called him, certainly amply proved his incapacity to accomplish anything constructive for the mass of Chinese. Yet many American politicians, seem to be determined to keep him saddled with his gang of tax-gatherers and extortionists, on the backs of the Chinese people. So determined that they actually appear to be drifting into war to further that aim.

Personally, I regret very deeply the fact that the Chinese have been manipulated into allegiance to Communism. But the reasons are very obvious. And neither Britian nor United States did anything - in China to "sell" democracy to the people. Quite the contrary, as anyone who visited Hong Kong or Shanghai before the Communist control, can testify. The insufferable superiority put on by the Anglo-Saxons for the Chinese was insulting,

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degrading, and developer of deep and lasting resentment. Now the chickens are coming home to roost.

The foregoing is preliminary to a study of the Korean situation. I do not profess to be wise enough to know what is best to be done there. But, I do know, and I knew last year and the year before, that "arming to preserve peace" has proven a fallacy through four thousand years of history. I have read that the great disciple of peace, Jesus, instructed his disciples to "Agree with thine adversary quickly." I am also conscious of the fact that it was Ghandi's consistent refusal to be baited into belligerance that eventually won freedom for India. Giving way to emotional storms is not only an evidence of immaturity, it can be and often has been the cause of the destruction of the flower of the nation's manhood. Orators and politicians who send them to their death do so to back up their previous pleas "We must arm to preserve peace."

That excuse might serve a pagan people. But is it a real excuse for nations calling themselves Christian?

Like you, I wanted the United Nations to succeed in preventing war - not to engage in developing one. Do we not know that ideas cannot be forced into the consciousness of people? A man facing your bayonet point may agree with you, and follow you, but that doesn't mean that you have convinced him of the virtues of democracy.

It is inconcieveable that 400 million individualists such as the Chinese can long be held under the yoke of communist dictators, once the iron hand appears in the open. Possibly a generation ago perhaps, but China has awakened since then. I should say they would be more likely to follow their historical precedent - swallow the dictator. And, to me there is strong likelihood that in so doing they will liberate the Russians also. And we know that freedom self-gained is apt to stick, but that imposed by force from without would be considered just another yoke. "Convince a man against his will and he is of the same opinion still."

Certainly another war to end war can solve nothing, unless it puts an end to all governments, by anhiliation. The Orientals could do no worse than that if left to work out their own destinies - and they might surprise us by doing a lot better than we have done.

And it is certainly long past time for the white man to quit acting and thinking himself superior to Oriental peoples, and to keep his bloodstained hands off them. He should remember that the great moral teachers from whom he got his morality and religions were Orientals.

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LETTERS - continued from page 3

Swans" and the Pilot was my older son F/L John Howarth, R.C.A.F. Westmont Squadron 401 - I would be very pleased if you would forward to me...five copies of same....I want to send them to England.

Mrs. E. Howarth.
Vancouver, B.C.

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BOUQUET.

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After 40 years of wandering around B.C. and the Yukon, I feel certain that we are well-away at last, hence the value of your very well turned out magazine.

Harper Reed,
Atlin, B.C.

WHY?

I find the C.N.W.D. quite interesting especially the article about the old G.T.P. as I was on the construction at Fort William, 1907, and later on the West from Regina to Prince George and made the trip in a gasoline speeder from Edmonton to Prince George. Three times my husband was superintendent of Boarding Car Dept. (The stomach robbers) but I am a stranger in this part of the country and would like to know why Cariboo is spelled that way instead of Caribou?

I find it interesting to go around asking everyone why they came to this country as I believe no one came for as crazy a reason as we did.

I saw an advertisement in a Vancouver paper last winter wanting to trade 200 acres in the Cariboo for a fishing boat. Now we had one tied up at Deep Bay V.I. which we had no earthly use for, and how we got that is another story! I was growing rather weary of running a gift shop and had heard nothing from my husband for a couple of years but hunting in the Cariboo, so I answered the ad.

The man who owned the ranch suggested that as the roads were impassable at that time, we trade sight unseen. We did this, and by September we had sold the gift shop and were on our way through a new wonderland — over the new Hope-Princeton Highway where the mountains are as high as heaven and the canyons as deep as hell and made me feel like a flyspeck in the universe. Our old dog "Pup" and the Budgie thoroughly enjoyed it as did the two friends we brought along on their holiday.

We crossed the Fraser at McAlister ferry, drove 20 miles North and reached Buck Ridge where the store keeper directed us to our new home.

We all spent the next three days shoveling, for when the farmer-owner moved out the horses moved in. During this time we had no stoves nor beds On the fourth day we went to Quesnel and bought stoves etc. and hunted up the Digest office to put in a subscription for the Digest.

So here we two young people, are starting out in life (we are around 60 years). Just what we can do with 200 acres of land mostly timber I don't know.

Mrs. O. D. Hauglid.
Buck Ridge, B.C.

The Editors have often asked why Caribou is spelled Cariboo. Can anyone tell us? —ED.

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annual rainfall which must be fairly evenly distributed, and there must be no prolonged periods of drought.

On the other hand, in its natural state it is highly intolerant of flooding and should this occur for even a short period the crop may be written off.

It is rather like a reed, its stem slightly thicker than a cigarette, and, important to stock breeders, it has large succulent leaves which make excellent cattle feed.

Like other fibres, Ramie soon exhausts the soil, so that frequent manuring is necessary, both from its foliage as well as from other sources. Potash, calcium, nitrogen and phosphorus are necessary.

Ramie, growing as it does to a height of some nine feet, is susceptible to violent winds and storms, but in some producing areas, this is counteracted by the growing of taller vegetation by way of wind breaks.

Planting experiments by seed have been unsatisfactory, although further research work is now being undertaken. The general practice that has proved most satisfactory is to plant from root stock.

Harvesting normally takes place three times a year. In the Philippines and in New Mexico, five and six annual crops have been obtained. When harvested, the canes are exfoliated and stripped of their leaves and flowers and these are returned to the earth. The stripped canes are then decorticated or dewooded into the "ribbons" or "China Grass" stage. These ribbons are then passed to the degumming process which finally yields the filasse or fibre staple ready for spinning. This staple is of an extremely fine silky texture. The result represents about three per cent of the weight of the total harvested crop.

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Williams Lake, B.C. *photo, courtesy B.C. Gov't. Travel Bureau*

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